



FY 2009 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROVIDES MIX OF REFORMS AND EFFICIENCIES FOR CORRECTIONS

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm released her Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Executive Budget today. This act begins the FY 2009 budget process. Both the Michigan House of Representatives and Senate will release their own budgets as well. The three sides will then begin the long and recently contentious process of developing a State Budget for 2009 that must be agreed upon by all three elected entities.

As many of us remember, the 2008 budget was so difficult to enact that a continuation budget through October 31, 2007 was needed and layoff notices were given to most state employees prior to an agreement being reached. The agreement halted layoffs that would have idled over 30,000 state employees. The 2009 Executive Budget for The Michigan Department of Corrections:

- Provides an Executive recommendation for total overall \$1.978 billion GF/GP budget including \$1.7 billion in funding to operate a safe and secure prison system that currently houses 50,200 prisoners in 42 prisons and 8 camps.
- Includes funding for oversight and supervision of over 18,000 parolees and 55,000 felony probationers.
- Provides \$110 million in funding for community programs that provide community-based sanctions for low-level offenders and supports the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative to reduce the state's costly recidivism rate by better preparing inmates for release.



REFORM AND EFFICIENCIES PROPOSAL

The Governor recommends \$50 million in net savings in the FY 2009 Corrections budget from a combination of efficiencies and reforms. This results in an overall reduction of almost 1% from FY 2008. The Governor's Office will participate in a bipartisan workgroup facilitated by the Council of State Governments under their Justice Reinvestment Initiative to work collaboratively with the Legislature to generate savings and budget reductions through operational efficiencies and reforms. Recommended efficiencies and reforms include:

- Implementation of health care efficiencies, changes in facility staffing assignments, consolidation of certain prison operations, adjustments to prisoner housing arrangements, advanced approaches to prisoner classification, continued impact of the statewide implementation of the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative, and new parole guidelines.
- Reforms to justice policies that will result in the reduction of admissions to prison so that additional efficiencies in prison operations can be achieved.
- Formation of a Justice Policy and Sentencing Commission to develop reforms to justice policies that can achieve significant budget reductions and savings in the department without jeopardizing public safety.

For more information on the FY 2009 Executive Budget please go to www.michigan.gov/budget.